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Summary record of the 55th meeting
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Chairman: Mr. MacKay ..... (New Zealand)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Kuznetsov

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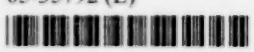

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 129: Financing of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (*continued*) (A/59/637, A/59/655 and A/59/736/Add.17)

1. **Mr. Sach** (Controller) introduced the Secretary-General's performance report on the budget of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET) for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 (A/59/655) and his report on the budget for UNMISET for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 (A/59/637).

2. By its resolutions 57/327 and 58/260 A, the General Assembly had approved a total amount of $208.8 million for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004. Of that amount, total expenditure of $196 million had been recorded, resulting in an unencumbered balance of $12.8 million. The underexpenditure was attributable to the faster than projected downsizing of military contingents, civilian police personnel and related international staff, and to savings from air operations. The related actions sought from the General Assembly were set out in paragraph 25 of the Secretary-General's report (A/59/655).

3. The report contained in document A/59/637 essentially addressed the "liquidation" budget for UNMISET for the period from July to October 2005. The original budget estimate had been for $3.9 million, a substantial reduction compared with the previous year's full operational budget. Liquidation had moved ahead faster than expected during the current financial period. As a result, the revised requirement for liquidation was $1,662,200, which was some $2.1 million less than originally anticipated. The updated requirements concerned operational costs, mainly relating to facilities and infrastructure, and reflected a reduction from $1.8 million to $0.7 million with respect to the proposed budget.

4. **Mr. Saha** (Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/59/736/Add.17), said that the Advisory Committee recommended that the unencumbered balance of $12,819,900, as well as other income and adjustments amounting to $5,246,000, should be credited to Member States in a manner to be determined by the General Assembly, as set out in paragraph 12 of the report. With respect to the liquidation budget of the Mission, the Advisory Committee recommended acceptance of the Secretary-General's proposal contained in paragraph 21 of document A/59/637.

5. **Mr. Lantu** (Indonesia) said his delegation was pleased that UNMISET had been able to discharge its mandate, and acknowledged the Mission's contribution towards making Timor-Leste more politically and economically self-reliant. However, Timor-Leste was still some distance away from full self-reliance. Development was a never-ending process, and his delegation therefore welcomed the establishment of the United Nations Office in Timor-Leste (UNOTIL). In the interests of good bilateral relations, Indonesia stood ready to assist Timor-Leste in its efforts to achieve its national goals, and the establishment of the Truth and Friendship Commission was important in that regard. Nevertheless, his delegation was concerned about some of the contents of the reports before the Committee and would seek clarification in the informal consultations.

The meeting rose at 3.25 p.m.